

sur Les Larides' ext. de la Rev. et Mag. de Zool., 1854, which I picked up in an old book store in Philadelphia. "Titian Peale, Esq., Zoologist, etc., from his friend the author. How can I manage to get a copy of the Am. Expl. Exp. Zool. in exchange or sale? The Plates have not yet reached Europe." Below in Peale's hand is "Rec'd June 14, 55. T. R. P." —WITMER STONE, *Academy Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

RECENT LITERATURE.

Keeler's Bird Notes Afield.¹—Mr. Keeler's charming book on California birds consists of a series of thirteen essays well entitled 'Bird Notes Afield,' with an Appendix (pp. 235-353) containing 'A Descriptive List of California Land Birds with Key.' The titles of the essays—'A First Glance at the Birds,' 'Patrolling the Beach,' 'A Trip to the Farallones,' 'A Day on the Bay Shore,' 'A Glimpse of Birds of Berkeley,' 'March in the Pine Woods,' 'Summer Birds of the Redwoods,' 'In a Mission Patio,' etc.—indicate very fairly what may be expected in 'Bird Notes Afield,' if we add that they are written by a sympathetic bird lover, who is withal an excellent field ornithologist, possessing the literary ability to tell gracefully and charmingly of the bird life of California fields, seashore and mountains. The first essay, 'A First Glance at the Birds' (pp. 1-52), is a general review of the birds of the State, which, as a brief popular account, is one of the best pieces of this kind of bird literature we have ever read. The style is attractive, and the narrative replete with the enthusiasm of a true bird-lover, who writes because he has something to say. The other essays are all in the same vein, and each by itself would be perhaps equally attractive, but as they were apparently written for special occasions and separate publication (several of them had appeared before and are here republished), there is naturally some repetition, as where the same species, appearing in several different essays, is repeatedly referred to in much the same language. But this is a slight fault, noticeable only on reading the book through consecutively.

The 'Artificial Key' to the California Land Birds is based primarily on color, the birds being divided into five primary groups on this basis. Each group is subdivided into sections, under which the species are arranged by their most striking features of difference, with a reference to the page where each is more fully described, in the systematic order of

¹ Bird Notes | Afield | A Series of Essays on | the Birds of California | By | Charles A. Keeler | — | D. P. Elder & Morgan Shepard | San Francisco | 1899. — 12mo. pp. i-viii + 1-353. \$1.50.

the A. O. U. Check-List. The number of species thus formally treated is 204. This is the first work of the kind on the birds of any part of the Pacific coast-region, and should be of great aid to "those who," as the author says, "wish to have an introduction to our familiar birds in their native haunts," for whom the book is especially intended. The omission of an Index, however, in a book of this character, is a grave fault, and a rare one, fortunately, in the bookmaking of to-day. — J. A. A.

Russell on Birds of the Northwest Territory. — Mr. Frank Russell's 'Explorations in the Far North'¹ contains a list of birds collected by him during two years spent in the Northwest Territory. The chief points at which collections of birds were made are Grand Rapids, on Lake Winnipeg, at the mouth of the Saskatchewan River, Aug. 30, 1892, to Feb. 20, 1893; Crow Nest Pass, Alberta, April, 1893; Fort Chippewyan, at the western end of Lake Athabasca, May 15 to June 15, 1893; Fort Rae, on the northern arm of Great Slave Lake, July, 1893, to May, 1894, and Herschel Island, on the Arctic Coast, July and August, 1894. Mr. Russell's adventurous journey was undertaken for the purpose of securing collections in all departments of natural history, including especially ethnology as well as zoölogy, ornithological work thus receiving only a portion of his attention. The list of birds, however, numbers 122 species, and adds much interesting information on the birds of the extensive regions visited by the author. Instead, however, of combining all of his observations into a single list, it would have been more convenient for the reader, seeking definite information regarding particular localities, if he had divided the list so as to give a separate enumeration of the species found at each locality. It would have made a little repetition as regards a few species, but the geographical clearness thus gained would have much more than compensated for a little loss of space.

We note that the list records the capture of two specimens of the European Widgeon (*Anas penelope*), — one at Grand Rapids, Lake Winnipeg, Sept. 1, and one at Fort Rae, Aug. 22, which, taken in connection with the small number of Ducks reported as taken, seems quite remarkable. As we also note that the list records the capture of two specimens of *Spizella pallida* at Fort Rae, and a specimen each of *Spizella socialis arizonæ* and *Sayornis phæbe* at Fort Chippewyan, while *Contopus richardsoni* is not mentioned, it is difficult to give quite as full confidence to the Widgeon records as would be otherwise natural. Also it is at least unexpected that his 52 specimens of Redpolls, taken at various points from Lake Winnipeg to Herschel Island, should all be referable to *Acanthis linaria*, this being also the only species of *Acanthis* given in the list. Both species of *Sco*

¹ Explorations | in | the Far North | By | Frank Russell | — | Being the Report of an Expedition under the | Auspices of the University of Iowa | during the years 1892, '93, and '94 | — | Published by the University | 1898. — 8 vo. pp. i-ix. + 1-290, map, and numerous half-tone plates. Birds, pp. 253-270.